

COCOM DOC. 3464

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Date: March 18, 1959

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COORDINATING COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION

Concerning

PROPOSED BELGIUM CABLE EXPORT TO THE SOVIET UNION

Reference: COCOM Doc. 3436 and Addendum

*copy never read - thermofax
Ch/D/S has a State Dept.
copy sent from 2 Apr 59*

The United States Delegation believes that the communications cable as defined in the Belgian memorandum is embargoed by Item 1526.

The definition of that item calls for the embargo of "communications cable of any type containing more than one pair of conductors and containing any conductor exceeding 0.9 mm in diameter." The Belgian cable meets the requirement for number of pairs and conductor diameter. The question remains as to whether it is communications cable. By definition communications refers to all types of transmittal of sounds, signals, images, writing, etc. The Belgian cable is evidently intended for such purposes.

This cable is long distance cable which can be used for railroad communications and/or for any conventional communications purposes. The cable has substantially greater capacity than normal or necessary for the stated end use. If this cable were to be used for railroad communications part of its capacity could and probably would be available for other uses. It is suitable for carrying telephone, teletype, facsimile, digital and possibly slowed down video signals. With these capabilities the cable could be used for air defense and other military purposes, for normal civil communications, or for a number of specialized communications purposes.

If all the quads are unloaded it is possible to derive 168 2-way telephone channels or about 2,000 2-way 60 words per minute teletype channels or any combination of these at a ratio of about 12 teletype channels to 1 telephone channel. In addition 7 2-way phantom circuits could be derived for telecontrol purposes. This analysis assumes an ideal repeater spacing of about 35 miles is used and direct current is not used on teletype channels. This estimated maximum capacity would be reduced if repeaters are more than 35 miles apart, if quads are loaded, or if direct current were used for teletype channels.

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